

COREY HEAPS: Hello, my name is Corey Heaps. I am the general manager from Bowie Resource Partners Skyline Mine. I also, just like Kurt, want to share some of the impacts or the contributions that Skyline Mine has to the community, to the state, and also the federal government. In 2015 Skyline directly employed 339 people. All these employees reside in Utah and live primarily in two counties, 59 percent in Sanpete County and 25 percent in Carbon County. The others reside in Emery and Utah counties. In 2015 Skyline's payroll alone exceeded \$35 million. Materials and supplies were purchased from vendors exceeding \$67 million. Property taxes to the local counties exceeded \$1.2 million. Reclamation and black lung taxes reached nearly \$5 million. Royalties paid to the federal government exceeded \$14 million. In total Skyline contributed over \$20 million in taxes and royalties to the federal state and local county. Combining our payroll, supplies, and utilities Skyline's total direct benefit totaled \$129,000. This is just Skyline Mine alone. On average it takes three indirect jobs for every direct job within the mine. That equates to over 1400 jobs just to support mining activities at Skyline Mine as well as others. As you well know, increasing the cost to do business at Skyline Mine will jeopardize the existence of its operation as the profit margins are already narrow. This could lead to the negative consequences of 339 direct jobs being lost and many other indirect jobs. Lost revenue to local communities, state and federal government are real and measurable. The supposed environmental benefits to keeping coal in the ground will not be realized or measurable to slightest extent. These impacts must be addressed in your analysis. Furthermore, the BLM needs to consider the great financial risks a group undertakes in developing a coal mine. This requires hundreds of millions of dollars to lease, permit, and construct the operation. It also could take in excess of 10 to 15 years before the first pound of coal is mined. One of the justifications for three-year moratorium is that there is time to analyze the program considering there are 20 years' worth of federal coal leases currently leased. Unfortunately, 20 years is not a long time when it comes to acquiring a federal lease and permitting an operation. I recommend the BLM remove the three-year moratorium. The coal program can be analyzed without delaying three years. The federal government makes important decisions every day without taking a three-year sabbatical. The existing federal leasing program is much less complex and can be done without delaying future leasing actions. Placing a moratorium on federal coal leasing only adds more uncertainty to

the future of acquiring coal mines. This detracts future investments and increases the likelihood of shutting down more coal mines. I urge the BLM to rise above the politics and misleading environment rhetoric and takes these things into consideration before revising the Federal Coal Program. This will only lead to more mines shutting down, more people out of work and more families moved to poverty. Thank you.